Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [~~0027~~] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] Figs. 1 ~~ad~~ and 2 show trencher unit 10 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Trencher unit 10, as shown in Fig. 1, has a support frame 12 which includes a housing 14 and a digging chain support assembly 30. Digging chain support assembly 30 carries an auger assembly 50 and an endless digging chain 34. Housing 14 also supports a hydraulic drive motor 24 for driving digging chain 34. Housing 14 is adjustably mounted for side to side adjustment to an attachment assembly 16. Attachment assembly 16 preferably includes a standard attachment fitting for mounting to attachment fitting 202 of loader 200.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Fig. 2 provides a partially cut away side view of trencher unit 10 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Direction arrow A in Fig. 2 is intended to indicate the direction of travel of loader 200 and trencher unit 10 as a trench is being dug in a forward direction. The wheels of loader 200 are widely spaced and therefore avoid the excavated portion of the trench. Direction arrow B indicates the direction of travel of ~~the digging chain~~ digging chain 34. ~~The digging chain~~ Digging chain 34 will be described in greater detail below.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] The details of digging chain support assembly 30 are best understood with reference to ~~Fig. 2, Fig. 3, Figs. 3A-3D and Figs. 5A-5C~~ Figs. 2, 3, 3A-3D and 5A-5C. Digging chain support assembly 30 includes a sleeve member 30A which is fixed to housing 14 by

structural supports 18A and 18B. As can be best seen in Figs. 5A-5C, structural supports 18A and 18B extend from the sides of housing 14 and rigidly mount sleeve member 30A of chain support assembly 30 to housing 14. A chain drive sprocket 20 is carried on a drive shaft 22. As can be best seen in Figs. 5A-5C drive shaft 22 is mounted by bearings 14A and 14B to housing 14. Also mounted to housing 14 and mechanically coupled to drive shaft 22 is a reversible chain drive motor 24, which, in this embodiment, is a reversible hydraulic motor supplied by lines 24A and 24B connected to the auxiliary hydraulic power supply of loader 200. At the lower end of chain support assembly 30 is an idler wheel assembly 32 including a rotatably mounted idler wheel 33. The position of idler wheel assembly 32 can be adjusted to take up slack in digging chain 34 by turning a pair of threaded adjustment rods 32A. Threaded adjustment rods 32A provide an adjustment mechanism for pushing telescoping support member 30B, idler wheel assembly 32 and thus idler wheel 33 away from sleeve member 30A and chain drive sprocket 20. Digging chain 34 loops around chain drive sprocket 20 at the upper end of support frame 12 and around idler wheel 33 at the lower end of digging chain support assembly 30. Auger assembly 50 is adjustably positioned upon support assembly 30 between housing 14 and idler wheel assembly 32. Auger assembly 50 includes two shaft mounted sprockets for engaging digging chain 34 and turning augers for pushing excavated dirt away from an excavated portion of a trench. Auger assembly 50 will be described in greater detail below.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Figs. 3, 3A and 3B further illustrate the lower, distal portions of digging chain 34 and digging chain support assembly 30. As can be seen in Fig. 3, digging chain support

assembly 30 includes a sleeve member 30A. As can be seen in ~~Figs. 2 and Figs. 5A-5C~~ Figs. 2, and 5A-5C support sleeve 30A is mounted at its upper end to housing 14 by supports 18A and 18B. Sleeve member 30A receives a telescoping support member 30B. In Fig. 2, telescoping support member 30B is shown extending through support sleeve 30A substantially to the upper end of sleeve member 30A. Idler wheel assembly 32 is mounted to the lower end of telescoping support member 30B. Idler wheel assembly 32 includes a plate like idler wheel 33. The thickness of idler wheel 33 is sized such that idler wheel 33 is received between the opposite plates of digging chain links 34A shown in Fig. 3D. As can be best seen in Fig. 3B, sleeve member 30A has a central passage adapted for receiving telescoping member 30B. The lower end of sleeve member 30A is also fashioned to receive an end member 30C. End member 30C also has a central passage adapted for receiving telescoping member 30B which aligns with the central passage of sleeve member 30A. End member 30C also includes threaded brackets 30C1 for receiving bolts 32A. Bolts 32A are for forcing idler wheel assembly 32 and telescoping member 30B away from housing 14 in order to apply tension to digging chain 34.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Auger assembly 50 can be best understood with reference to ~~Figs. 3, and Figs. 4 and 4A~~ Figs. 3, 4 and 4A. The purpose of auger assembly 50 is to push excavated soil away from an excavated trench. More particularly, auger assembly 50 is adapted to push soil far enough away from an excavated trench to substantially clear the wheels of loader 200. Auger assembly 50 is particularly useful in situations where a deep trench is excavated or a relatively wide moderately deep trench is excavated such that a considerable volume of soil is removed from the excavated trench. Auger assembly 50 is adjustably mounted to support assembly 30

and more particularly to sleeve member 30A. As can be best seen in Fig. 4, auger assembly 50 is mounted to digging chain support assembly 30 such that its position can be adjusted between a first upper position as shown in Fig. 3E and a second lower position as shown in Fig. 3F. The first upper position corresponds to a configuration useful for digging a relatively deep trench. This is especially true if one or more extension members 30D are added to digging chain support assembly 30. As can be best understood with reference to Fig. 4, auger assembly 50 includes a forward auger drive sprocket 52 located forward of digging chain support assembly 30 and a rear auger drive sprocket 54 located behind digging chain support assembly 30. Forward auger drive sprocket 52 engages the forward inside portion of digging chain 34. (Digging chain 34 is omitted in Figs. 4 and 4A for clarity.) Forward auger drive sprocket 52 is carried by an auger shaft 52A which is suitable for receiving two removable forward augers 56A and 56B. Forward augers 56A and 56B turn as digging chain 34 runs past auger drive sprocket 52. In the same way, rear auger drive sprocket 54 is carried by an auger shaft 54A which is suitable for receiving two removable rear augers 58A and 58B. Auger ~~shwfts~~ **shafts** 52A and 52B are mounted to auger assembly 50 by bearings 50A. Augers 56A, 56B, 58A and 58B are removable and interchangeable in order to accommodate digging chain 34 operating in two directions. Augers 56A, 56B, 58A and 58B, as shown in Fig. 4, are arranged to push dirt away from a trench digging operation such as the one shown in Fig. 2. Direction arrows 56D1 and 56D2 illustrate the direction of rotation of augers 56A and 56B respectively. Direction arrows 56E1 and 56E2 illustrate the directions in which excavated dirt is transferred away from an excavated trench by augers 56A and 56B. Similarly, direction arrows 58D1 and 58D2 illustrate the direction of rotation of augers 58A and 58B respectively. Direction arrows 58E1 and 58E2

illustrate the directions in which excavated dirt from augers 56A and 56B and from an excavated trench is transferred away from an excavated trench by augers 58A and 58B. The configuration shown in Fig 4 is intended to transfer dirt a sufficient distance away from a trench to permit the wheels of loader 200 to roll forward without rolling over a significant amount of excavated dirt. Augers 56A, 56B, 58A and 58B may be adjusted upon shafts 52A and 54A between a relatively narrowly spaced configuration as shown in Fig. 4 and a relatively widely spaced position as shown in Fig. 4A. The relatively wide configuration shown in Fig. 4A is intended to accommodate a digging chain having wide teeth for digging a relatively wide trench. Example wide toothed digging chain links 34G are shown in Fig 4A. In ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 7C, trencher unit 10 is shown operating at a relatively shallow angle and in a direction that is reversed from that shown in ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 2. When operating in this mode, augers 56A and 56B can be removed while augers 58A and 58B are installed in a manner that is reversed from the arrangement shown in ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 4 thus pushing soil away from an excavated trench when the direction of rotation is opposite of that indicated by direction arrows 58D1 and 58D2 of Fig. 4.

Please replace the first paragraphs indicated with [0037] and the second paragraph erroneously indicated with [0037] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0037] Since attachment fitting 202 of loader 200 can be raised and lowered by its arms as well as tilted by a second pair of hydraulic cylinders as shown in FIG. 1, trencher unit 10 can be raised and lowered and tilted as well. Trencher unit 10 can be tilted between a substantially upright position as shown in Figs. 2 and a tilted position as shown in ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 6A.

~~[0037]~~ [0037.1] Aside from being adjustable in various ways described above, trencher unit 10 may be operated in a forward mode as illustrated in ~~Fig. 2 and Figs. 6A-6C~~ Figs. 2, and 6A-6C or a reverse mode as shown in Figs. 7A-7C. When commencing a forward trench excavation operation, trencher unit 10 is preferably pivoted to a digging depth substantially as shown in Figs. 6A-6C. After the position shown in Fig. 6C is accomplished, excavation proceeds as shown in Fig. 2. During a forward excavation operation as shown in Figs. 6C and ~~Figs.~~ 2, skid plate 106 is generally in contact with the surface in front of the trench and brace assembly 150 is in contact with the front end of loader 200. During a forward digging operation, relatively deep trenches can be dug and since trencher unit 10 is in a relatively upright orientation, loader 200 may execute turns in order to dig curved sections of trench. It is preferable, when in the digging position shown is ~~Fig. 2 and Fig. 6C~~ Figs. 2 and 6C that digging chain support assembly 30 is tilted forward by a relatively small angle as shown in ~~Fig. 2 and Fig. 6C~~ Figs. 2 and 6C. This orients digging chain 34 such that the segment of digging chain 34 cutting the forward face of the trench is sloped to facilitate the removal of material from the excavated trench.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Because of these adjustable features, it is possible to operate trencher unit 10 within a wide range of positions and modes. Trencher 10 can operate at any angle between a shallow 45 degree angle shown in ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 7C and a substantially upright position as shown in ~~FIG.~~ Fig. 2. The direction of travel of digging chain 34 can be changed to support a forward direction or a reverse direction. Excavation of a trench can be conducted to the left or the right of the centered position as shown in Figs. 5A-5C. Trencher unit 10 can be reconfigured to dig

trenches ranging in width from a relatively narrow trench to a relatively wide width. A digging chain having links with relatively narrow teeth as shown in Fig. 3D may be replace by a digging chain having links with relatively wide teeth as shown in Fig 4A. By adding extension members 30D and extending telescoping member 30B within sleeve member 30 of digging chain support assembly 30 as shown in Fig. 3, trencher unit 10 may be configured for digging at greater depths. Moreover, varying trench depths may be accommodated by shifting the position of auger assembly 50 an upper position shown in Fig. 3E and a lower position shown in Fig. 3F.